

40 DAYS

OF FAITH
AND HOPE
IN ACTION

A Devotional Prayer Journey into the
Presence, Power, and Purposes of God

*ON MISSION.
EVERYONE.
EVERYWHERE.
ALL THE TIME.*

All Scripture is from the NIV version unless otherwise stated.

A Devotional Prayer Journey into the Presence, Power, and Purposes of God

John Stott, a famous British theologian, once declared, “Wherever one looks in the church today, there is an evident need for a deeper work of the Holy Spirit.” I could not agree more.

I was speaking in one of our churches not too long ago, and I offered a call for people to respond to a fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit. A few people began to make their way forward. The worship team was leading in songs of response, and you could sense God doing some significant work in the hearts of those gathered.

All of a sudden, one of the long-standing members of the church, who was part of the worship team, walked off the platform and came towards me. He dropped to his knees and with deep emotion cried out, “Pray for me; I want more of the Holy Spirit.” Next to him stood his wife, who was equally desperate for a fresh encounter with God. In the next hour, I continued to encounter people who were hungry for God and seeking a deeper filling of the Holy Spirit.

This hunger for more has always been embedded in the DNA of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. This craving was the power that resulted in a holy life and a willingness to courageously go to the nations of the world. Our spiritual power has always been intimately embedded in the presence and purposes of God.

Rob Reimer affirms, “Spiritual authority is rooted in identity, expanded in intimacy, and activated in faith.” I love that! **I invite you to embrace your identity in Christ and to expand your intimacy with Christ, so that you can be on mission for Christ.**

The call to prayer in this devotional journey is really an invitation into deeper intimacy with Jesus. It is through intimacy with Jesus that our authority and power are unleashed. When missionary passion is infused with Holy Spirit power, the nations of the world will know the Good News of Jesus. Let it be so!

Blessings,



Dave Hearn
President
The Christian and Missionary Alliance

Contents

Day 1	Strengthening the Walls of your Soul	3
Day 2	The 3 Cs of Confession	4
Day 3	Pharisee or Tax Collector	5
Day 4	Praying for my Prime Minister	6
Day 5	Beside Still Waters	7
Day 6	Living Prayerfully All Day Long	8
Day 7	Passivity or Full Engagement	9
Day 8	Courage in Placement	10
Day 9	Lord, Teach us to Pray	12
Day 10	Praying Prophetically	13
Day 11	Entering in	14
Day 12	Take Time to Listen	15
Day 13	Take Heart! Wait for the Lord!	16
Day 14	Listen: What Is the Lord Saying?	17
Day 15	The Spirit Speaks through Scripture	18
Day 16	A Walk with Him	20
Day 17	Worship through Lament	21
Day 18	Experiencing God on the Beach	22
Day 19	Praying and Living for God's Glory	23
Day 20	Bringing Things about by Prayer	24
Day 21	Prayer Moves the Hand that Moves the World	25
Day 22	Dearest Father	26
Day 23	Living in His Promises	27
Day 24	Prayer for Wisdom	28
Day 25	Let God Be God	29
Day 26	Praying for those We Love	30
Day 27	Pray and Obey	31
Day 28	Pausing in His Presence	32
Day 29	A Reflection on Prayerlessness	33
Day 30	Selfless Intercession	34
Day 31	Ministry from above	36
Day 32	Proclamation Prayer	37
Day 33	Prayer, Refugees, and Global Impact	38
Day 34	What Jesus Is Doing Right Now	40
Day 35	Private Fears	41
Day 36	Mining Rich Resources	42
Day 37	Praying in the Holy Spirit	43
Day 38	Presence	44
Day 39	Praying for Globally Scattered People	46
Day 40	Proximity or Presence?	48

Strengthening the Walls of your Soul

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name...” — EPHESIANS 3:14-21

The walls of the Temple as described in the Old Testament were apparently 3 to 5 metres wide, the thickest of any structure existing at that time. The constructors wanted to depict the need for something strong enough to contain God’s glorious presence. Paul has this picture in his mind when he launches into his prayer in Ephesians 3. He had just been talking about the fact that now, after Pentecost, God actually indwells His people (Ephesians 2:20, 21). He has taken up residence in each believer and is no longer confined to just one building. Paul’s prayer is that the reality of God’s indwelling presence will impact believers at every level of their being!

Take a few moments to read through Ephesian 3:14-21. Let me paraphrase this prayer:

I pray that God will strengthen the walls of your soul (v.16), that you will increasingly know that Jesus is always with you (v.17). I pray that you will be rooted and solid in the love of God (v.18), that the reality of His love will continue to capture you, and that the experience of God’s glorious presence will be more and more real to you (v.19). God can do it (v.20-21)!

Wow, what a prayer! We often feel weak and fragile as we attempt to follow Christ. Paul provides a pattern for us to pray. In our weakness, we ask God to strengthen our inner person, our soul. He shores up the walls, expands our capacity to see God, and increases our awareness of His presence. Notice the invitation of the Triune God. The Spirit, Christ, and the Father are all present and at work in us.

Spend some time praying this prayer for yourself and the people you know, taking each phrase and using it as a basis to pray so that the “walls of your soul” are strengthened!

REFLECTION

1. What word or phrase about what God wants to do in your soul today most stands out to you?
2. Based on what you read in this prayer, what will it look like in your life as God continues to strengthen the walls of your soul?

Ric Gilbertson serves as the Executive Pastor of RockPointe Church, in Calgary, Alberta.

The 3 Cs of Confession

"If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything"

— 1 JOHN 3:20

One rarely talks of prayer without bringing up the word confession. Many of us may be familiar with the ACTS formula for prayer: Adoration—Confession—Thanksgiving—Supplication. Naturally, because of our proneness to wander away from God, confession needs to be part of our prayers. That said, there are two other “c” words that help us practise true confession: condemnation and conviction.

Jesus taught His disciples that the Holy Spirit’s job is to convict, and that one of the things He will convict us of is that the devil is condemned (John 16:11).

Isn’t it interesting that while Satan is the one who is condemned, he spends so much time condemning us with insinuations and accusations?

Real confession must flow out of real conviction, and that only comes from God’s Spirit. It doesn’t come from agreeing with Satan’s suggestive thoughts, or even from our tendency to go looking for warts and wrinkles. Romans 8:1 reminds us that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Condemnation is a general tearing down of who you are, while Holy Spirit conviction focuses on the specific offence.

The Apostle John knew how it felt to be condemned; in 1 John 3:20, he writes about his own heart condemning him, and that God is greater than his heart. I can relate to John. I’ve lived much of my life under this banner of condemnation that left me often fault-finding within and without.

Recently, the Spirit convicted me to stop it. It’s a no-brainer to quit finding faults with others, but the surprising part was that He stressed that I was to stop finding fault with myself. He was saying, “It isn’t your job to go looking for sin in yourself or others; that’s my job. Leave it to me and get on with the job of loving Me and those around you.” What a freeing word!

REFLECTION

1. Next time you confess, take a quick pulse check. What are you confessing? Is it a specific offence, or are you beating yourself up, listening to accusations and tearing yourself down?
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to increase your discernment to know the difference between true conviction and condemnation.

Kathy Klassen was raised in Ethiopia as a daughter of missionaries. She now serves at First Alliance Church in Scarborough, Ontario and ministers to people in the Spirit’s power to encourage an abundant life in Jesus.

Pharisee or Tax Collector

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner!’” — LUKE 18:13

The practice of Lectio Divina* in my personal devotions the last few years has helped me to become more authentic in coming close to God. Prayer has become more personal and relational to me. It is no longer a wish list of prayer requests for which to plea or a chore to accomplish; rather, it is a natural communication with the One who knows me and loves me so much. It is also in this process of communication that I know myself better and understand God’s sovereignty upon my life.

One day, I was listening to Luke 18 on my mobile phone while driving to a meeting. When it came to the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, the tax collector’s self-awareness and utterance towards God touched me deeply. It was as if I was having the same conversation with Jesus. I couldn’t hold back the emotions and burst into tears as I, too, cried out to God, “Father, have mercy on me; I am a sinner.” By identifying myself just as that tax collector, in need of mercy, I experienced God afresh as all-knowing and all-loving, recognizing there is no need to pretend.

FURTHER SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: LUKE 18:9-14, 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

REFLECTION

1. How much do I enjoy my prayer time with God? Do I communicate with Him spontaneously in every situation?
2. Who am I in my prayer time? A Pharisee? A tax collector? Or someone else?

Aaron Tang is serving as Executive Director of Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association (CCACA).

*Lectio Divina: A contemplative praying of the Scriptures, slowly, several times, and listening for God to speak.

Praying for my Prime Minister

“Pray ... for kings and all those in authority...” — I TIMOTHY 2:1-3

Five Sunday evenings each year, a group of intercessors from our church gathers for an extended time of music, intercessory prayer, storytelling, and listening to God. One of our gatherings took place on the Sunday evening following a federal election.

In preparing for this event, our planning team took some time to choose a Bible passage. After some discussion, we landed on I Timothy 2:1-3. Paul’s prayer is quite challenging to those who take our discipleship under Jesus seriously.

Paul wrote to Timothy, “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority...”

These are challenging words for many Canadian Christians who may not agree with the politics of their governing leaders, no matter the level of government. Paul instructs his readers regarding their relationship to civil authorities. He tells them not only to submit to their leaders, but also to pray for them with diligence.

I found my preparation to teach on these verses a significant challenge to my own discipleship. I learned that I am to pray for my new authority, my Prime Minister. At our prayer gathering that Sunday evening, I found myself also praying with diligence for the Prime Minister’s family. I was moved to pray for divine wisdom and guidance for the Prime Minister, and that the whole family would witness Christ’s love and presence.

Choosing to obey the clear mandates of Scripture is an important part of learning to pray in ways that honour Christ. Prayers that flow out of our commitment to obeying God will result in some of the most honest and Biblical prayers we will ever pray.

Living out our calling to pray without ceasing will always involve a willingness to obey what we are commanded to do in Scripture. Let us each embrace this clear connection between prayer and obedience as we continue on our path of discipleship.

REFLECTION

1. Read Romans 13:1-7. Who is the source of all authority?
2. What responsibilities do the civil authorities have in our lives? What responsibilities does Paul say we have?

Matt Boda serves as Lead Pastor of RockPointe Church, a multi-site church in Calgary, Alberta. He and his wife, Jamie, have been married for over thirty years; they have five daughters, four sons-in-law, and three grandchildren.

Beside Still Waters

“Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame” — PSALM 34:5

I'm sitting in one of my favourite spots. The river glides by, smooth and dark green. I raise my face to catch the warmth of the October sun and think of it as Your love for me, pouring down from Your smiling face. I love these times of soaking prayer. I come without agenda, without requests or expectations. I simply bring my desire to be with You and the confidence that You love to be with me. Your presence is warm and comforting; Your love drenches my spirit.

I often think of David's expressions: lying down in green pastures, beside quiet waters, and letting You refresh my soul. I remember John leaning back on Your breast and hearing Your heartbeat. Sometimes I see myself on Daddy's lap, feeling the joy of communion with my Father, who knows all and sees all and cares specifically for me.

It is a time just to bask in Your love for me and to remember who I am, first and foremost, before any of the other roles in my life: I am a dearly loved daughter of God with complete, free access to Your throne.

These times of silent prayer help me take a step back and see life from Your perspective, uncomplicated by my words and ideas. I see how much greater You are, how tiny my problems look, and how simple life can be when I choose to trust You completely. I can walk into the rest of my busy day knowing I'm surrounded by Your favour as a shield, and that my life radiates the joy of Your presence wherever I go.

REFLECTION

1. How would it change my life if I took even five minutes a day just to look at Jesus' face and bask in His love for me?
2. Take time to read and reflect on Psalm 34, Psalm 63, and II Corinthians 3.

Ruth Shareski is an Alliance international worker who serves with her husband, Ralph, in Heidelberg, Germany. They focus on equipping young adults to walk in the Spirit and bring the Kingdom wherever they go. She is the proud Oma of six grandchildren.

Living Prayerfully all Day Long

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” — ACTS 2:42

Luke makes this statement as 3,000 people accept Peter’s message of Jesus, giving their lives to him and being baptized. As brand new Jesus-followers, *“They devoted themselves... to prayer.”*

Prayer isn’t the “advanced course” in following Jesus, or something for a small circle of those monastically inclined. As a group of people following Jesus together in community, we pray.

Just like hockey players skate, and swimmers swim, followers of Jesus pray. If you’re a hockey player and you can’t skate, you’re just kidding yourself about what you do. If you’re a swimmer and you never get in the water, then you’re not very believable. If you say that you follow Jesus, but you don’t pray, well...

For years, I thought that I wasn’t a prayer warrior, because it seemed that this term applied to elderly saints or to those who could intercede. Then how did these brand new followers of Jesus pray? Can I ever “pray continually” as 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says?

I can build my prayers on the foundation of what God has told me about who He is and how He loves. Living prayerfully all day long is built on the foundation of Scripture. It’s the place where where what I read meets what I think, and where what I think meets what I do!

For me, this looks a lot like a quick phrase of prayer to God anytime. Sometimes, I’m in a conversation, and I’ll say in my head, “Lord, I just don’t know what to do here. Would you give me wisdom, please?” Sometimes, it’s a sense from the Holy Spirit that I’ve just got to hold my tongue. That doesn’t sound particularly spiritual, having God tell me just to keep my mouth shut, but the integration of prayers like this into my life is how I live prayerfully all day long.

REFLECTION

1. Commit to praying continually throughout today, so that the Spirit’s guidance will shape how you think and influence what you say and do.
2. Plan to take a few moments this evening to reflect on how God prompted you or influenced your actions today.

Brian Delamont serves as the Senior Associate Pastor at Kamloops Alliance Church, in British Columbia. He is thankful for his wife, Darlene, for three amazing sons and daughters-in-law, and for God’s patience with him.

Passivity or Full Engagement

"After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: 'Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land'" — I KINGS 18:1

Passivity is a robber. The prophet Elijah was anything but passive when he prayed for rain. There had been no rain on the land for three years. By anyone's definition, that is a serious situation. How the rain came about is very interesting.

In I Kings 18:1, God tells the prophet, "Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the land." In I Kings 18:41, Elijah tells Ahab that God is going to send rain, in abundance nonetheless. Then Elijah goes to the top of Mount Carmel, bows himself onto the earth, and prays that God will send the rain. He does this seven times, sending his servant to go find out if there are any rain clouds coming over the sea. He does not stop praying until he sees the cloud.

The question is, why does he pray for what God has already said He would do? And why does he pray so intently, until he actually sees what God has promised? The answer to these questions lies in the great priority that God places on prayer; He longs to see His desires—the very things He has already promised to us—fulfilled in our lives. The New Testament puts it clearly; "You do not have because you do not ask God" (James 4:2). Perhaps there are things that God has promised you that remain unseen. There may be promises God has given His Church that we are not experiencing. Do not sit idly waiting for them to come about. This is no time for passivity; take those promises and pray them determinedly until you see them realized.

FURTHER SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: I KINGS 18:1, 41-46

REFLECTION

1. What is it that God has promised you that you do not yet see?
2. What are the promises God has given His Church that we are not experiencing?

Bill Dyck is Senior Pastor of Toronto Alliance Church, in Southern Ontario. He and his wife, Donna, have been serving there for twenty-one years, rebuilding hope for a future in the heart of the city.

Courage in Placement

“Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments... let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel” — NEHEMIAH 1:5-6

Nehemiah is an inspiration in courageous repentance, intercession, and action. Like Queen Esther, he found himself in a place of esteem and privilege. These two people had something else in common; they pressed into their placement and did not protect their positions. Recognizing that God could use his influence for the welfare of others, Nehemiah prayed to that end.

Nehemiah was Cupbearer to King Artaxerxes; he lived in the palace a distance from his people, who lived in the ruins of Jerusalem. When he received the news of his people, he wept for days, fasted, and prayed.

WORSHIP AND REPENTANCE

Read Nehemiah 1:5-7

Nehemiah, knowing who he was and who God was, positioned his heart to worship God and acknowledge his sin. Then he remembered God’s promise to Moses, that He would gather His people again if they returned to Him with obedience.

INTERSESSION AND SURRENDER

“They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man” (Nehemiah 1:10-11).

After days of prayer, Nehemiah told the king about his people’s trouble with the ruined walls and asked for time off to go help. God moved the king to release Nehemiah. Nehemiah,

continually praying, decided to ask for a letter for safe travel for the journey. The king not only granted his request, but also provided bodyguards. Nehemiah, rolling in faith as he saw that the Spirit was influencing the king, mentioned his need for wood. The king gave Nehemiah a letter for that too! Nehemiah acknowledged that it was only because God's gracious hand was on him that the King was responding favorably.

REFLECTION

1. Reflect on Nehemiah's prayer found in Nehemiah 1:5-11. For whom are you positioned to pray?
2. What is the Spirit asking you to do in the position God has placed you?

Paula Jones and her husband, Mark, live in Thailand and serve as the Asian Spice Canadian Regional Developers.

**NEHEMIAH IS AN INSPIRATION
IN COURAGEOUS REPENTANCE,
INTERCESSION, AND ACTION**

Lord, Teach us to Pray

“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples’” — LUKE 11:1

As far as I can tell, there’s only one time when Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them something specific, and not surprisingly, it had to do with prayer: “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). So often, we feel inadequate in this significant element of our spiritual journey.

I love the words of Abraham Lincoln, who wrote, “I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of those around me seemed insufficient for the day.”

A lack of success in our prayer journey, combined with personal desperation, is a very troubling combination; hence, “Lord teach us to pray!”

I read a survey by Gallup Poll recently that said even 30% of atheists claim to pray every once in a while! Gallup tells us that more people will pray this week than exercise, go to work, or drive a car. What is it that fuels our desire to learn about prayer? Perhaps Phillip Yancey answers it best:

“We pray because we want to thank someone or something for the beauties and glories of life; and also because we feel small and helpless and sometimes afraid. We pray for forgiveness, for strength, for contact with the One who is, and for assurance that we are not alone. We pray because we can’t help it.”

O Lord Jesus, teach us to pray. Teach us how to trust. Teach us how to wait on you.

REFLECTION

1. Where are you feeling overwhelmed and under-resourced in your life today?
2. What does Jesus want to teach you about your prayer journey?

Ian Trigg is in his fifteenth year serving as Lead Pastor of Foothills Alliance Church in Calgary, Alberta. His greatest passion is to know Jesus, and his greatest joy is helping others along that journey.

Praying Prophetically

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy”

– I CORINTHIANS 14:1

One of the things I love about the Lord is that He is always speaking. It’s a privilege to quiet our hearts to hear His voice and receive a specific word to pray over someone. A prophetic prayer, received through revelation from the Holy Spirit, can shift the spiritual atmosphere and bring breakthrough, direction, and hope as you declare God’s word for someone.

I Corinthians 14:1 says, “follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.” We read further, in verse 3, that “the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging, and comfort.”

God often gives a prophetic word or prayer by giving a timely Scripture, a mental picture or image, a dream while we sleep, or an open vision while we’re awake. When we tune our heart and mind into the heart of the Father, He communicates with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Praying prophetically changes circumstances and can bring needed miracles for God’s glory.

As I have fallen more in love with the Lord, I’ve become amazed by how He speaks and shares His heart of compassion with me for people. Moving in prophetic prayer has everything to do with surrendering and listening out of an intimate relationship with the Father.

I pray that God will release His gift of prophecy over those who eagerly desire to hear His heart and listen to His voice. I ask Him to use them to strengthen, encourage, and comfort the nations of the world and people in their communities.

REFLECTION

1. Reflect on John 1:27: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow Me.” How has God spoken to you? How do you recognize His voice as you pray? Journal your prayers as you sense what He is saying to you.
2. Ask the Father to begin to reveal specific words or Scriptures that are timely for others. Courageously share these with the people for whom they have been given.

Linda Gould leads the prayer ministry team and teaches prophetic ministry at Burlington Alliance Church in Burlington, Ontario, where her husband, Shane, is the lead pastor.

Entering in

“For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory”

– COLOSSIANS 1:27, NLT

Recently, the Lord began to use the phrase “entering in” when speaking to me about my quiet time and communion with Him. For many years, I had this mindset: there was God, and there was me looking upward or outward, seeking to connect and hear from Him.

Eight years ago, I started to record my prayers in a journal. As I was writing my prayers upward, I found that thoughts would light upon my mind and heart from within. A speaking voice would rise up from the depths of my being, speaking wonderful words of affirmation, edification, encouragement, conviction, and exhortation.

Often, these words would come from the Scriptures, leading me to die to self, accept His incredible love for me, or worry less. At first I resisted, for it sounded like I was making it up. Yet this voice continued to speak tenderly. It was so refreshing.

Through this process, God revealed to me that my connection with Him happens on the inside. It is His plan for my renovation! In Christ, I am a new creation, filled with His Spirit. He dwells within me and I am one with Him. This understanding led me to fundamentally change the way that I expected to hear from Him.

Instead of a voice coming from *without*, it is a voice that comes from *within*. Instead of understanding His words as coming from One who is separate from me, they come from One who is within me.

REFLECTION

1. Quiet yourself and write a prayer to God. Be aware of Him speaking from within. When He speaks (thoughts that light upon your mind), do not question, just write what comes.
2. Later, test it against the Scriptures and share it with a trusted Christian friend.

Rev. Jeff Roy, Pastor of the 3crosses Café, is also the Founder and Director of the 3crosses Listening Centre in Huntsville, Ontario. Go to 3crosses.ca to find out about The Jesus Experience or to connect with Jeff.

Take Time to Listen

“And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will” — ROMANS 8:27

In my role as Director of Member Care, I pray daily for our international workers (IWs) in one of the four regions, for the Global Ministries leadership team, and denominational leaders. When I first established this pattern, I would literally pray through the list of people in that day’s region, trying to recall challenges they may be facing, and praying for each one’s specific situation. It took a long time to pray through some of the larger regions, and I often found myself repeating the same stock requests for people. It wasn’t quite as bad as “God bless the missionaries,” but some days it was not much better.

One day, I read through the list of 50+ names before me and then simply sat in silence, listening for the Spirit of God. As He brought people or thoughts to my mind, I would pray along the lines I sensed Him directing me towards. I didn’t pray for every name on the list, but I did pray with insight for the situations the Spirit brought to my mind.

After my prayer time, I wrote a few emails, sharing with IWs how God had prompted me to pray for them. I was shocked by the responses I received from people telling me that I had been praying about situations they had not shared with anyone. I now realize that my prayers for others are much more effective if I spend less time talking and more time listening for the voice and leading of the Spirit.

REFLECTION

1. Do I spend as much time listening to God as I do talking to Him? Am I comfortable with silence while waiting for God to speak?
2. Take time each day to listen to God. Be attentive to His activity in the world around you. Invite God to inform your prayers for the people for whom you are praying.

Judith Wiebe serves as Director of Member Care for Global Ministries, of the C&MA. She and her husband, Doug, live in Calgary, Alberta.

Take Heart! Wait for the Lord!

“Don’t be impatient. Wait for the Lord, and he will come and save you! Be brave, stouthearted, and courageous. Yes, wait and he will help you.” — PSALM 27:14, TLB

We often pray for various things in our lives; however, we can get impatient when we don’t know when or whether they will happen. True faith includes being patient and remembering that God has our best interest at heart. This also includes believing that God knows just the right time to act. The challenge is to trust His timing; we may have to exercise much patience and trust.

An example of being patient is praying for the salvation of our loved ones. It’s not uncommon to see believers praying for family members to be saved for 20, 30, or even 40 years without results. We begin to wonder if God has heard our prayers, and if He has, why He hasn’t answered the way we hoped He would.

A Christian colleague shared an incredible answer to his prayer. This took place while he was visiting his 101-year-old mother who lived in a care home. Shortly after arriving, his mother told him how she dreamed about being in heaven and how much she wanted to go there. He saw this opportunity as an answer to his prayer and invited his mother to ask Jesus to forgive her sins and to receive new life. With great emotion, she immediately and emphatically said, “YES!” which was amazing given her weakened state.

My colleague was overwhelmed with emotion, having had the immense privilege of seeing God bring the answer to fifty years of praying for and witnessing to his mother. Ten days later, she passed away, and he is eternally grateful that she is now safe with Jesus. God’s timing is perfect, never early and never late. He knows what is best for us and will lead us to the right place, at the right time. Take heart! Persist in prayer and wait for the Lord to act.

REFLECTION

1. Is there something for which you have been praying that remains unanswered?
How does Psalm 27:14 encourage you today?
2. What would it look like for you to be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord in this matter?

Bill Wong is a Chaplain and the Assistant Pastor at Vancouver Chinese Alliance Church.

Listen: What Is the Lord Saying?

"Have any of these prophets been in the Lord's presence to hear what he is really saying? Has even one of them cared enough to listen?..." — JEREMIAH 23:18, 22, 35, NLT

Life happens. Most often, it comes at us fast and furious, and we run. "Have any of these prophets been in the Lord's presence to hear what he is really saying? Has even one of them cared enough to listen?...If they had stood before me and listened to me, they would have spoken my words, and they would have turned my people from their evil ways and deeds ... "You should keep asking each other, 'What is the Lord's answer?' or 'What is the Lord saying?'" (Jeremiah 23: 18, 22, 35).

When did you last take time to be in God's presence, posture yourself to hear what He is really saying, and ask Him to reveal His answer?

My posture is very different when I come not with my lists but with my heart, not to talk as much as to listen. The focus is not really on answers but on discovery.

This passage in Jeremiah shares a striking result: If we care enough to stand in God's presence and listen, we will see world change (v. 22). I long to see that! I am learning that change doesn't happen only because of what I do; it happens also because of spending time in His presence. When I am in God's presence and spend time listening to Him, He gives me His heart, His eyes, His passions, and His answers. He changes me. Then and only then can I represent Him well.

As we take time to stand in God's presence and listen, let's begin to ask ourselves and each other, "What is the Lord's answer? What is the Lord saying?"

REFLECTION

1. In the words of Jeremiah, have you cared enough to listen in your times of prayer?
2. Take time today to sit quietly before the Lord. What is He saying to you? What is He impressing on your heart that will move you to action?

Michelle Derksen and her husband, Murray, work as Regional Developers in the Caribbean Sun Region. She is enjoying the journey of faith and prayer and being challenged by how God is stretching and growing her.

The Spirit Speaks through Scripture

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" — II TIMOTHY 3:16

One of the most wonderful ways in which the Spirit speaks to us is through a prayerful reading of Scripture.

One day, a woman named Alison met with me in my office. She had recently gone through the most challenging experience of her life, and found herself completely broken and desperate for a fresh understanding of God. God was at work in her heart, but she said that she was stuck in one area: forgiveness.

I prayed that God would show her His love.

That week, Alison read Jesus' words "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message..." (John 17:20-21).

Alison sent me an email: "For the first time, it suddenly hit me that in the most intense time of Jesus life, knowing that in only a few hours, He would be arrested and beaten and crucified...He was talking to God about ME! He was praying for ME! How could that possibly be?! I began to cry."

Then Alison read, "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory..." (John 17:20-24). Alison wrote, "This verse really impacted me. Although I've always known that I would go to heaven, this verse changed my perspective from: "God allow millions of people into heaven" to: "God really wants me to be with Him."

As Alison read the Scriptures, God poured His love into her heart. She wrote, "I finally got it! I finally grasped His love for me! What joy! What peace! What freedom! And from this place, I find that I am now able to genuinely forgive, want the best for, and love the people who have hurt me. And oh, the joy that floods my soul!"

In my pastoral ministry and prayer life, I have seen how encountering the living Christ in His written Word is water to the thirsty soul! This is our daily bread; it is delicious manna that falls from Heaven!

Today, Alison and her family are key people in our church plant in Ancaster, Ontario.

REFLECTION

1. Do you believe that God will speak a specific and timely word to you through reading the Bible?
2. Identify a specific issue or need in your life, and then pray with your Bible open. Ask God to speak to you through the living and active words of Scripture (II Timothy 3:16).

Steve Kerr is Senior Pastor of Gateway Church, a community of churches in the area of Hamilton, Steve lives in Caledonia, Ontario with his wife, Christa, and their two children, Emma and Ethan.

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A Walk with Him

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being..." — EPHESIANS 3:16

It was the summer of 1996, and I was sitting at the dining room table eager to preach a series on renewal and revival. Then I felt a tap in my soul, followed quickly by this surprising thought: *Yes, Gene, the Church needs revival, but I want to start with you.*

I was shocked! Me? That couldn't be, but soon I came to discover that my walk with God was mediocre at best.

That began a nineteen-year journey to get to know God more intimately – to walk with Him and bask in His presence. That's not to say that there haven't been times when I failed Him miserably, because there have been. But in the end, I am now closer to God than I've ever been; more content, more at peace. I'm learning to *walk* with God, rather than just *doing stuff* for Him. It's a great feeling!

On this journey, one of the prayers in the Bible that has meant a great deal to me is Ephesians 3:14-21. It's a prayer that hungers for the love of God, "to know this love that surpasses knowledge." Whether you read this prayer in silence or out loud, each line builds on the next, ending with this triumphant crescendo: "to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

REFLECTION

1. Reflect on your relationship with God. Is it more about what you can get from Him, or what you can do for Him?
2. Read through Ephesians 3:14-21, stopping after each line to reflect on God's desire for you to know His love and presence in a more intimate way.

Eugene Neudorf is a church consultant and transitional pastor working with the C&MA in Canada and other denominations. He and Rhona, his wife of forty wonderful years, have two grown sons, both in full-time ministry, along with five of the cutest grandchildren the world has ever produced!

Worship through Lament

“Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?...You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry...” — PSALM 10

At times, praying is hard to do, especially when we are hurting, feeling disillusioned, or questioning the goodness or even the existence of God. We live in a sinful, broken world where pain, suffering, and injustice thrive. We see evidence of this every day, and sometimes it impacts us personally, which can cause us to become overwhelmed and want to cry out to God in sorrow or even anger.

God can take it! There are many examples of people in Scripture pouring out their hearts to God with prayers of lament. They prayed deeply emotional prayers, questioning if God cared, why He was allowing bad things to happen, and asking if He were really there! “Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?” (Psalm 10:1). “How long, O Lord? Will you utterly forget me?” (Psalm 13:2). The Old Testament book of Lamentations is a collection of poetic laments expressing deep despair over the destruction of Jerusalem. “Arise, cry out in the night...pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord” (Lamentations 2:19). Yes, God has heard intense cries of despair from His people, and He welcomes it.

Individuals who have grown up in a church tradition that did not practise prayers of lament in corporate worship often don't use them in personal prayer. Yet, prayers of lament can be extremely helpful in our spiritual journey. As we release our hurt or confusion, or offer profound questions to a Sovereign God, His Spirit comforts, heals, and renews our perspective. He provides us with hope as we come to a God who is all-powerful, who is actively reconciling the world to Himself.

Offering prayers of lament is actually an act of worship. Instead of turning away from God, letting our hearts get hard, we, as an act of faith, acknowledge our pain, our sorrow, and doubt to the One who is the only source of hope in this world!

REFLECTION

1. Write your own prayer of lament, identifying the difficulties and challenges with which you are struggling that are causing you to question the goodness or even the existence of God.
2. To counter any feelings of despair, list 10 things that you can thank God for today.

Joanne Beach serves the C&MA as the Director of Alliance Justice and Compassion.

Experiencing God on the Beach

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there” — PSALM 139:7-8

Psalm 139 teaches that God knows all about each one of us and wants to spend time with us. Everywhere we go, He is with us.

One day, I was in Ucluelet, B.C. and decided to go to Florence Bay to walk the beach. This is one of my favorite places to spend time with God. I walked down the half-kilometre trail praying and praising God. I asked Him to show me things, let me feel things, smell things, and experience Him.

Looking off the gravel trail into the woods, I saw all types of trees; some were crooked, broken, skinny, or old. Others were young. They were all part of the forest. Some trees had fallen down, crisscrossing each other with new, smaller ones growing out of them. God does know where every log falls; this reminded me that God knows where we are in our history.

As I continued along the trail, with all its ups, downs, and bends, I could neither see the beach nor hear the crashing waves, but I anticipated the sights and sounds. It was as if the small plants beside the path were cheering me on, shouting, “Keep going! There is much to see.” I picked up my pace and reached the beach. How beautiful it was, even with the light fog and breeze. I started to take pictures of shells, seaweed, and other objects. For a few minutes, I forgot about spending time with my Heavenly Father and instead focused on capturing the perfect picture.

I realized this shift and asked, “Lord, show me something special from You.” Those words were still on my tongue as I looked up and saw a large sea otter about 100 metres away, running in my direction. It ran within five metres of me, stopped, and stared for a few minutes. Then it headed off. What a gift from God! For the next few hours, I enjoyed communing with my Heavenly Father. What a precious time.

REFLECTION

1. Do you hunger to experience God in a new and fresh way? Consider talking with God as you go about a routine activity today.
2. Read Psalm 139, pausing after each phrase. Consider how intimately your Heavenly Father knows and cares about you.

Stephen Foster has served as the Seamless Link Advisor/District Mission Consultant of the C&MA's Canadian Pacific District.

Praying and Living for God's Glory

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you" — JOHN 17:20-21

Jesus' two key prayers are found in Matthew 6:5-16 (repeated in Luke 11:1-4) and in John 17.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus focuses on our relationship with the Father and with each other in the context of living in the Kingdom of God. In the Gospel of John, Jesus' prayer focuses on our relationship with the Father and with each other in the context of God's revealed glory through Christ. The God whose name is merciful, compassionate, and forgiving, who kept His face, full identity, and glory hidden from Moses, is now fully revealed to us in Jesus. The old covenant relationship is no longer limited to external commands inscribed on stone tablets. In Jesus' prayer in John 17, we learn that God's glory is revealed in Christ within the divine Father-Son relationship, and that He comes to live within us, unifying all believers.

This is the glory that is not only revealed but is also given to us in this prayer. Its implications are revolutionary for our relationships at every level. This prayer in John has become the focus for a spiritual revolution in Cuba and is uniting believers from more than 30 denominations across the nation. Join us in unleashing this revolution of Jesus' prayer and glory in your life and church, where love and unity display works that make the Good News of Christ genuine to those who do not yet know Him.

REFLECTION

1. What is the threat to the outworking of God's glory in our lives in Jesus' prayers of John 17:11 and John 17:15-17? Pray these passages with Jesus for the protection of your relationship with other believers and the unity in your local church.
2. What are the implications of God's glory given to us in Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17:20-24?

Blake Penson and his wife, Kathy, are international workers working and living in a creative access country in the Caribbean Sun Region.

Bringing Things about by Prayer

“Jesus gave them this answer: ‘Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does’” — JOHN 5:19

Armin Gesswin, founder of Revival Prayer Fellowship in California, made a statement about prayer that rocked my world. Teaching at a College of Prayer module, he stretched out his 90+ year-old finger and with gentle boldness said, “Jesus didn’t pray about things, He brought things about by prayer.”

After letting that sentence hang for what seemed like an eternity, he opened the Gospels and went to work making his point. He highlighted Jesus’ own words in John 5:17, “...My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” And then in verse 19, “...I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

Armin used Mark 1:35-38 as an illustration: “Very early in the morning...Jesus got up... and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed...” Peter and the other disciples assumed that He would want to continue ministering to the crowd gathering in response to the previous day’s ministry. Instead, Jesus replies, “Let us go somewhere else...so I can preach there also.” Jesus discerned through listening prayer that He was to go “somewhere else.” Jesus lived in such unity with His Father by the Holy Spirit that He was completely aligned with the purposes of the Father.

We, as Spirit-filled people, can learn to live the very same way, doing nothing by ourselves; imitating what we see the Father doing through listening, discerning, yielding and obeying. Jesus brought things about by prayer—so must we!

REFLECTION

1. Have you practised listening prayer? Reflect on times when you were inspired to obey a prompting by the Spirit.
2. How has your prayer life led you to bring about Kingdom values or principles?

Brent Farquhar pastored Midland Alliance Church in Ontario for 25 years before joining the C&MA’s Central Canadian District office staff in 2010 as the Assistant District Superintendent.

Prayer Moves the Hand that Moves the World

“Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.” — JAMES 5:16, THE MESSAGE

God has given us the gift of prayer. As we spend time praying, God reveals His will, which informs our prayers. He has chosen to work through our prayers, to reveal His power as we pray. Prayer is foundational to our relationships, our work, and ministry. People are messy, and we are needy. Yet God loves us and lends us His ear and heart as we walk with Him through each moment of the day. Our prayers move Him. Nothing powerful occurs without God!

This is where our prayer relationship with Him is key. Constant connection with God keeps us centered and gives us focus on His purposes. In my own journey, I carve out time to center myself in Christ each day, to spend time listening to His voice as I meditate on His word and the promise that He is with us. Yet beyond a set aside time, as I walk or exercise, stop for lunch, or drive to work... I make these additional moments intimate times with the Father by sharing my inner thoughts and concerns with Him.

We also have friends around the world that pray with us each week. We make it our common practice to pray together for the goals and desires that we trust God's hand is moving in. We stand amazed at what the Holy Spirit is doing with and through us. It has been a powerful experience to receive His leading, His comfort, His direction and to see God work through His Spirit. He gives answers to the concerns pressing on my heart and in our ministry.

As we cultivate a practice of praying throughout the day, we will hear God speak and see His victorious hand guiding us. We will see Him moved to action and experience His love, power, and guidance. It will change your life!

REFLECTION

1. Reflect on the truth that our prayers move the hand of God. In what circumstance do you need to see the power of God demonstrated?
2. Do you make it a common practice to pray regularly with others? What outcome does James teach about gathering with others for prayer?

Linda Doell and her husband, Curtis, work as regional team leaders for the justice and compassion ministry track in the Caribbean Sun Region. Their ministry is to equip local Alliance churches to transform their communities for Jesus Christ by implementing sustainable community development initiatives.

Dearest Father

"...When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name!..." — LUKE 11:2, NASB

Something about the Lord Jesus' pattern of prayer led the disciples to ask the Master for teaching. The disciples would have been stunned by Jesus' words, "When you pray, say: 'Father...'"

It was not the idea of God as Father that would have been startling to the disciples (Psalm 103:13; Isaiah 63:16; Malachi 2:10). However, Jesus used an Aramaic word common within family relationships, "Abba," which is best rendered "Dearest Father." Jesus avoided the formal address for a father, "Abinu," which was found in the synagogue prayers.

"Abba" expresses:

1. Intimacy

Jesus emphasized that prayer is more than praise and worship, confession, and petition. The first thing Jesus was teaching about prayer was that it is an expression of intimacy, a personal relationship with God.

2. Respect

Paul emphasizes that our adoption as children is one of the best blessings of God's redemptive plan. God has a fatherly authority in His family. (See Ephesians 1:2-5, 17; Galatians 1:1, 3-4). This relationship brings moral responsibility for God's children to live in ways that bring glory to our adoptive father and to His family name.

3. Abba expresses affection

As children, we all desperately need love. We can expect God's steadfast and unflinching love to be available and accessible to us.

4. Abba expresses dependence

Jesus was perhaps reinforcing the need for us to "become like children" (Matthew 18:3). We are invited to express our childlike dependence on the Father, who is the ultimate source and provider for life.

FURTHER REFLECTION: ROMANS 8:15-17 AND GALATIANS 4:4-6

REFLECTION

1. What does addressing God as Father mean to you personally?
2. How does the fatherhood of God influence the life of your church family?

Dr. T.V. Thomas serves as the Multicultural/Intercultural Ministries Consultant for the C&MA in Canada and is part of the Alliance Pray! Team.

Living in His Promises

“Things that are seen don’t last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal. That’s why we keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen” — II CORINTHIANS 4:18

Three short blasts from my morning alarm summon my soul from restless sleep. It’s as if a shofar has awakened me for battle. My wife stirs. I hit snooze...

Debris from the previous day weighs heavily on me. Up extremely late helping our overwhelmed teenage daughter through a frustrating school assignment, bills need to be paid, but work is scarce...my favorite aunt is on the edge of losing her battle with cancer. Does she know Jesus? I just want to go back to sleep.

I step out of the shower and wipe the fog from the mirror with my hand. I see my reflection in the watery swoosh, you are My child, My beloved, I am so pleased with you. I love you. I close my eyes and breathe in these words. Comfort, identify, hope. I look closer, past my weariness, past my grief, past myself, fix my eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. A pang of hope twitches in my gut. You are with me Jesus.

Ham, cheese, bread. “Which one of you kids likes mayo and which one likes butter?” I can never remember that. Bags packed, mitts and scarves on. Off they go for another day of learning...

I sit down at my desk, steaming coffee in my mug. My daily reminder pops up on my screen: I want you to live in the impossible, with Me all things are possible.

Eyes closed, deep breath, I listen. I position my heart in God’s personal promises. Out of His glorious riches I am strengthened with power though His Spirit in my inner being, so that Christ dwells in my heart through faith.

His presence and promises rise in me, strengthening me to enter into the impossible.

FURTHER REFLECTION: MARK 1:11, MATTHEW 19:26, EPHESIANS 3:16,17

REFLECTION

1. List the impossibilities God, by His strength, is calling you into?
2. What are the promises God has given you to meet these challenges?

Jason Hildebrand, part storyteller, part creative catalyst— Jason works around the globe as an actor, producer, and communication coach. He lives in downtown Toronto with his wife and four children. He is a member of Toronto Alliance Church. jasonhildebrand.com

Prayer for Wisdom

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you” — JAMES 1:5

Every fall, my family performs a thorough review of our belongings to make sure we do not keep unnecessary items. We take this opportunity to give to families around us who have greater need for some of our items.

Once, when opening some plastic storage bins, I was surprised to discover that I had a large baseball cap collection. I wondered, “Do I need ten baseball caps while only one would suffice?” This discovery led me to think of the variety of responsibilities that we all have in our lives.

Many of us wear multiple hats. Soldiers wear a military beret to work, which is a duty and responsibility. However, while going for a leisurely bicycle ride with the family, a soldier wears a helmet for safety. There are some who use one cap to go fishing and a different one to go hunting. Each hat represents a specific role, as every aspect of our life comes with its own set of responsibilities for which we need wisdom, whether you are a parent or child, an employer or employee, or a teacher or student.

Some hats can be removed, and some can't. The important thing is to discern which hat is the best fit for us in the circumstances that we are facing each day.

Many of us have difficulties in choosing the right hat for the right occasion because our perception of events is sometimes wrong. That is why we need the help and influence of our infallible God to give wisdom. The Bible says, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up” (James 4:10).

REFLECTION

1. It is one thing to trust God for the big decisions of life. Will you also seek His wisdom for the mundane responsibilities that your role brings to you each day?
2. Identify a responsibility, decision, or struggle that you are facing today. Humbly ask God to give you His wisdom to discern the right hat to wear for the situation ahead of you.

Padre (Captain) Steeve Arseneau is a Military Chaplain with the 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, near Quebec City. Steeve represents the C&MA's St. Lawrence District on the national leadership team of the Association of Alliance Chaplains.

Let God Be God

"But the Lord replied, 'Is it right for you to be angry?'" — JONAH 4:4

I love the story of Jonah and the big fish. It has nuances of storms seizing the boat and terrifying the heart, of being swallowed up in the sea and belched up on the beach, of crying out to God and being heard – but not as we'd like.

From the belly of the fish, Jonah prays for the presence of God, asks for salvation, and gets it. Jesus tells us that the story of Jonah teaches about His path to the cross and the grave; Jonah was in the fish for three days due to his sin, and Jesus was in the grave for three days due to our sin. Then, like Jonah, Jesus came out of the grave. God's power and presence was real and Jonah experienced it, but what about the purpose of God?

Jonah was reluctant when it came to the purpose of God, which was to call the people of Nineveh from idols to the living God. Jonah asked, "Is this not what I said when I was still at home?...I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God...a God who relents from sending calamity" (Jonah 4:2).

Jonah wanted God to be different: a god who is for Jonah and against others; a god who is a grumpy guy, not a good neighbor; a god who is a mirror reflection of—guess who—Jonah.

Are hard hearts all around us? But is our own heart harder still? Are idols all around us? Do we just hate it when laws are changed, when the definition of things that have been building blocks of society are changed? Do we hate it so much that we start wondering when God will show His judgment in order to show that we are right, always have been, and always will be? In this case, are we making up a god who is like us?

"You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love" (Jonah 4:2). It is God's purpose that we are like Him, not that He is like us. It is in prayer that we embrace His purposes so that our attitudes and actions reflect the grace and compassion of God.

REFLECTION

1. Do you have a desire to see God extend grace and compassion to people who are unjust, cruel, and oppressive?
2. What might God be asking of you in terms of your attitudes towards others?

Franklin Pyles pastored churches that served inner-city neighborhoods, taught theology at Canadian Theological Seminary, and pastored in Owen Sound, Ontario before serving as President of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada for twelve years. He continues his preaching and teaching ministry at McMaster Divinity College.

Praying for those we Love

"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit..." — EPHESIANS 3:16, NRSV

Do you ever find yourself groping for words when it comes to expressing our hearts to God on behalf of those we love – our kids as parents, our students as teachers, our congregation as pastors? How about our friends, co-workers, or international workers?

Aside from any specific needs of which we may be aware, if you are like me we seem to run out shortly after asking for God's blessing (whatever that may mean), His watchful care, and protection. God has preserved so many wonderful prayers in Scripture that we can borrow and pray back to the Lord. Among several, the one that I pray for our kids and grandkids more than most is Paul's prayer found in Ephesians 3:14-21 by inserting their name into the prayer.

I encourage you to try using the prayers of Scripture on behalf of whoever is on your heart today. Simply insert their name as you pray the following:

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that _____ may be strengthened in his/her inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in _____'s heart through faith, as _____ is being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that _____ may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that _____ may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Now watch God work in answer to your prayer!

REFLECTION

1. How can the components of this prayer relate to the current context of the one you are praying for?
2. How can this prayer lead me to pray more specifically and practically for their life or situation?

Rev. William (Bill) R. McAlpine, PhD is a professor of Practical Theology at Ambrose University in Calgary, Alberta.

Pray and Obey

"And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey him." — JOSHUA 24:24

A gentleman in our church always sat at the back of the sanctuary writing text messages during the sermon. One day, he told us his wife had committed her life to Jesus! He had been texting the sermon notes to her, as she lived in their home country!

Once, we were praying about organizing a Chinese New Year outreach event. We knew people would feel homesick during the festive season. We didn't know how many people would come. We rented 2,200 seats from a sports stadium. If 1,000 showed up, we would be satisfied. Financially, we did not have enough to cover the rent and other expenses, but after much prayer, we went ahead in faith and signed the rental contract. On the actual day, 2,200 people came and filled every seat. Another 1,000 people stood outside, because the inside was totally full. God also provided all the funds to cover the financial need. On that day, 163 people came to the Lord. People still remember this joyous event.

What are the common aspects of these two stories? Prayer and action.

The gentleman in our church did not just pray for his wife's salvation; he also took action to share the Gospel with her.

We did not wait until we had sufficient funds to sign the contract; we believed God would provide. Signing the contract was an action of faith that involved some risks.

In Joshua 6, we read that the walls of Jericho did not fall by prayer alone; it also involved obedient action. The seven priests had to go before the ark with seven horns; the warriors followed and marched around the city for six days. On the seventh day, when they sounded the trumpet, the wall tumbled, and the people shouted, obeying the instructions that God had given them.

Pray, in order to understand God's will, claim His power, obey His instruction, and give God all the glory.

REFLECTION

1. Do any Bible passages come to your mind when you think of God delivering His people from trouble, danger, persecution, or lack of resource? In addition to praying, what actions did God's people take before God led them through with victories?
2. Are you facing a task that seems greater than you can handle right now? In addition to praying, do you sense an action God is prompting you to take?

Ruth Teo is an Alliance international worker. She and her husband, Rev. Dr. Jonathan, have been serving in the Silk Road Region since 1998.

Pausing in His Presence

“Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed” — LUKE 5:15-16

While visiting Galilee Retreat Centre a few years ago, God started to lead me into a journey of pausing before Him. As I sat by the lakeside in the morning, listening to the waves splashing on the beach, I realized that I was all by myself. I pictured Jesus Christ standing before the Sea of Galilee with His crowd of followers around Him. In the lonely stillness of that morning, I was reminded that although Jesus spent most of His time in the midst of people, He also valued His private quiet times of prayer.

Matthew’s Gospel tells us that after a long day of teaching, Jesus dismissed the disciples and crowds and “went up on a mountainside by himself to pray” (Matthew 14:23). These verses reveal that when life got busy, Jesus got away from the noise of life and came purposely before the Father in silence and solitude.

I honestly am not comfortable with silence; I have never been good at being silent before people, let alone God. However, on that day, imagining Jesus by the Sea of Galilee, in the silence and stillness of the beach, I experienced the fullness of being silent before God in a renewed way.

Thomas A. Kempis wrote, in *The Imitation of Christ*, “The further the soul is from the noise of the world, the closer it may be to its Creator, for God, with his holy angels, will draw close to a person who seeks solitude and silence.”

I encourage you to practise the art of listening, pausing first for God to speak in your prayers. I know that as you make space for God to speak, He will speak to you.

REFLECTION

1. When was the last time you were silent before God and listened to Him during your prayer time? If you cannot remember, now would be a good time to start.
2. What changes to your schedule need to be made so that you can spend time listening to God in prayer, instead of rushing into a list of requests?

David Nguyen is married to Joyce and has three young children. He has been in ministry at Ottawa Chinese Alliance Church for thirteen years.

A Reflection on Prayerlessness

“...You do not have, because you do not ask” — JAMES 4:2, ESV

One of the difficult things about prayer is that the very act of praying is an indication that we can't do life alone. It is an affront to our aspirations of independence. In fact, we would prefer not to ask anybody for anything. To ask for help is a sign of weakness.

In his very helpful and encouraging book, *A Praying Life*, Paul Miller writes, “We have an allergic reaction to dependency, but this is the state of the heart most necessary for a praying life....Dependency is the heartbeat of prayer.”

In the book of James, we are informed that we do not have because we do not ask. Before we even begin to consider our motives in prayer, there is this problem of prayerlessness; a prayerlessness that comes from a warped desire for independence. And yet, as Christians, we should know how crucially dependent on God we are and ought to be. A willing dependence on God is the starting point of prayer.

Paul Miller continues, “If you are not praying, then you are quietly confident that time, money, and talent are all you need in life....But, if like Jesus you realize you can't do life on your own, then no matter how busy, no matter how tired you are, you will find the time to pray.”

Perhaps one of the hindrances to prayer in your life is an unwillingness to recognize your position of dependency. Maybe an inflated opinion of your talents, or an ill-placed trust in time and money have you convinced that prayer isn't necessary, and so you don't ask; however, if Jesus prayed in dependence on God, how much more do we need to put our imagined independence behind us and pray to our Heavenly Father?

REFLECTION

1. Do you believe that all your problems can be fixed with time and money in your capable hands?
2. If you're honest, what areas of your life are currently in need of help from God?

Jude St. John is currently serving as West London Alliance Church's Interim Lead Pastor. Jude is happily married to his wife, Nicole. They have five beautiful children: Ena, Mara, Adele, Judah, and Arwen.

Selfless Intercession

“For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel” — ROMANS 9:3-4

There is no deeper form of intercession than praying for and on behalf of people who have wronged you. Three individuals in biblical history dared to pray this way. All three interceded when their love for a particular group of people outweighed ordinary limits of love.

Utterly aware of the Lord’s presence, while interceding, these three completely identified with the object of their intercession. Two embraced this intercessory prayer through a gradual process of movement toward people who had wronged them. More importantly, the Lord, the third, individual was born to pray this type of prayer.

These three individuals are Moses, Paul, and Jesus. All three prayed to be damned so that others could be saved.

It began with Moses. On day thirty-nine of a forty day fast, God told Moses that the people had broken two commands: “No other gods” and “No graven images”. In an orgiastic feast, they worshipped a carved piece of metal as the god of the Exodus. So awful was God’s rage that He said to Moses, “Leave Me alone...that I may destroy them...” (Exodus 32:10).

Moses refused to go!

Bolder yet, Moses asked God to change His mind (Exodus 32:12). Even stronger, he prayed from a place of participation in the destiny of the damned: Moses acknowledges that the people have committed a great sin and pleads, “Now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written” (Exodus 32:32).

Then God changed His mind.

Paul also prayed that he would be condemned for the sake of his Hebrew kin (Romans 9:3).

Jesus lived that prayer as His calling.

Not one of them had asked for this kind of praying—it was given—and these three did more to transform Earth than any others. There is no deeper intercession!

REFLECTION

1. Is there an individual that God is prompting you to intercede for?
2. Is there a people group that God is asking you to pray for with this form of deeper intercession?

David Chotka is the Lead Pastor at Heritage Park Alliance Church in Windsor, Ontario.

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Ministry from above

"...he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion...And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms" — EPHESIANS 1:20,21; 2:6

In your life and ministry, do you minister from above or below? It seems that all too often our prayers are postured from a place other than where we are seated with Christ, far above all else, from the very throne room that possesses the riches of our glorious inheritance.

When our prayers emerge from below, far from our seated position with Christ, they are characterized by a sense of scarcity, helpless desperation, and a lack of faith and expectancy. When our place of prayer and ministry emerges from the very presence of Christ, we experience abundance, spiritual authority, anointing, and faith. So in your mind's eye, do you envision the matters for which you pray (the challenges and difficulties) as things that are over your head or under your feet?

Christ is supreme over all things. His ascension is now our ascension and we are seated with Him. Living from this geographic locale is the key to living with the power and authority that every believer already has in Christ. Even the Lord's Prayer demonstrates this kind of authority. Rather than asking, it declares, "...thy Kingdom come, thy will be done." Jesus has given us not only His mission, but His authority.

Prayer from above, and ministry from above, move His Kingdom forward in power and authority. Like any spiritual discipline, the practice of ministering from above needs to be developed.

FURTHER SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: EPHESIANS 1:18; EPHESIANS 3:12

REFLECTION

1. Ask Jesus to enlighten the eyes of your heart to know this reality (Ephesians 1:18).
2. Approach God with freedom and confidence in your prayers (Ephesians 3:12).

Doug Balzer serves in the C&MA's Western Canadian District Office in Church-Planting and Leader Development. He also serves to advance a movement of renewal through leading others in personal encounter with the Holy Spirit.

Proclamation Prayer

"In the name of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, walk.' Taking him by the right hand he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet...walking and jumping, and praising God...all the people saw him..." — ACTS 3:6-9

I am challenged in my personal faith by this proclamation prayer, as expressed by Peter and John to this paralyzed man.

A **prayer of proclamation** is pronounced with a firm assurance in the power of the name of Jesus Christ with no doubts. I know the theology, the teachings, and balanced view of my tradition can make me feel trapped in the default position of expecting nothing. *Lord, help me to pray prayers of proclamation like Peter and John, expecting the miraculous. Free me from my secure, middle-of-the-road stance.*

A **prophetic prayer gesture**. Peter and John coupled their proclamation prayer with a prophetic gesture when Peter stretched out his hand to help the man up. I know there is no power in prophetic gestures, God will accomplish His work no matter what. However, I believe that we can reach out with a real prophetic touch that inspires hope, faith, restoration, and healing. *Lord, help me to engage, with firm assurance, in gestures that communicate hope and healing in this suffering world.*

A **prayer witness**. "...all the people saw..." (Acts 3:9). The Holy Spirit's wondrous work happened within the public square. We must not contain our prayer witness within the church walls or our worship settings. *Lord, you want to display your Kingdom power to all those who do not know you; those who are longing to know your power but don't often see it in organized churches. Lead me to places and individuals needing Jesus, and give me faith and courage to deliver prayers of proclamation.*

REFLECTION

1. Do you have firm assurance in the power of the name of Jesus Christ to do the miraculous in people's lives today? If not, ask God to help you in your unbelief.
2. Are there individuals in your life that need to experience Jesus' power? Do you have the courage to boldly act when Jesus leads you to offer a prayer of proclamation on their behalf?

Francis Pearson is the District Superintendent for the C&MA's St. Lawrence District.

Prayer, Refugees, and Global Impact

“Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing”

– I TIMOTHY 2:8

Nicolaus, an upper-class German, and his family were suddenly inundated with refugees on their peaceful, quiet property outside the city. Hundreds of thousands of people forced to find life elsewhere due to violent political and religious conflict had been uprooted from secure homes, schools, and work. Would Nicolaus welcome them?

Sounds like an event from 2015!

When Nicolaus was a student, he met regularly with five friends for prayer and Bible study. They committed themselves to three main priorities: to holding Christ above all things, to being kind to all people, and to seeing the Gospel preached to all nations. This was life-shaping for him.

Now as a young man, facing the refugees—with a family and new career at stake—Nicolaus said yes to these families and helped them establish a settlement there. It went well at first, but soon religious passions began to divide them. Nicolaus went house to house to plea for reconciliation, showing that unity among brothers and sisters is possible in Christ if we follow His ways.

At a communion time of reconciliation, the Spirit moved among them in power. In a year of unity that followed, a desire grew to see the Gospel preached among the nations. In short, Nicolaus and this small community of refugees from Moravia went on to send 278 missionaries over thirty years; after he died, the community sent many more missionaries.

How was this possible? Early on, they established a prayer watch; someone was always awake praying, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. This prayer vigil went on for 100 years!

How like God it is to use the lowly and despised of this world to show His glory. No, this wasn't in 2015 – but it really could be, couldn't it? It could be, because our turn has come. Oh, what God will do through those who say “Yes”!

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen” (I Timothy 1:17).

REFLECTION

1. Do you have a group of friends with whom you pray? If not, why not consider it and see how God leads you?
2. Is there an issue or a ministry that you are aware of that needs a prayer vigil of 24/7 praying?

Mike Linnen, Director of Seamless Link, served as a pastor in East Gate Alliance Church in Ottawa for eleven years, and as the District Missions Consultant for the churches of the C&MA's Eastern Canadian District for five years. He is married to Michelle and lives in Oshawa, Ontario with their two sons, Christopher and Nicholas.

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Read the full story of the Moravian community in Red Moon Rising (Greig, Roberts).

Recommended website: 24-7prayer.ca

What Jesus Is Doing Right Now

"...because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them"

— HEBREWS 7:24-25

What is Jesus doing right now? The question was posed to me in a manner consistent with a heart that was longing to know Jesus more. It was a question I didn't see coming, but it sparked in me a desire to discover the answer. Can we know what Jesus is doing at any given moment? And what would the implications be if we did know? My inquiry became, "Jesus, what are you doing now?"

Hebrews 7 informs us about what Jesus is doing right now. He is interceding; He is praying for you and me. The implications of this truth are many, but one has become a way of prayer that has been transformational for me. When I pray, I begin by asking Jesus, "What prayer is on your heart for this person, situation, family, church, or for me?" And then I listen. Eventually a picture, idea, Scripture, or even a single word will come to mind as an invitation to join Jesus in His prayer as He intercedes for us. It is so refreshing, so life-giving, to pray out of a posture of listening to Jesus as opposed to coming up with what I think should be prayed.

There is a conversation happening between Father, Son, and Spirit right now. Every time we pray, we are entering into the prayer gathering of Heaven, and we are invited to participate in the intercession that is already taking place.

What is Jesus doing right now? He's praying for you. By name. Take time to listen to His words and passion. What He has to say promises to be a treasure of wisdom, insight, and love.

REFLECTION

1. What are the implications of Jesus interceding for you?
2. Ask Jesus, "What is the prayer that you are praying for me? For the person on my mind? The Church? Our nation?" Listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and align your prayers with the intercession of Jesus.

Wade Paton, over the past sixteen years, has served three Alliance churches in Canada and as an international worker in Thailand. Currently, he serves as Associate Pastor at Sherwood Park Alliance Church in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Private Fears

“After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward...” — GENESIS 15:1-6

When Abram rescued Lot, he had just faced down Kedorlaomer and the kings with him! After defeating so great an enemy, he was still afraid. It might be inferred from the rest of this passage that Abram thought he'd see the end of his days without an heir, without a son to remember him. Knowing this, God immediately addressed Abram's fear.

Abram responds by noting four times that he is without a son. “But Abram said, ‘Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?’” (Genesis 15:2). Before giving God a chance to respond, his fear unbridled, Abram continues, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir” (Genesis 15:3).

The Lord tells Abram, “a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.’ He took him outside and said, ‘Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be’” (Genesis 15: 4-5).

“Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). Wow; this was an intensely personal conversation about a private fear. As the result of God's assurance, Abram displayed faith and was credited righteousness! Abram's faith had worldwide and lasting implications!

You may think you have a secret fear, a private fear that eats away at you; this fear might feel like it never leaves you, even after a great victory in your life. God already knows about your fear. If you admit it to Him in prayer, you may find it to be one of the most meaningful experiences of your entire life. It may even change lives someday! The Lord is our shield, our very great reward. Amen.

REFLECTION

1. What is your private fear?
2. What stops you from talking to the Lord about it?

Marcus Verbrugge is the Seamless Link Advisor for the C&MA's Central Canadian District, and author of *Beginnings—Growing in Prayer through Genesis*.

Mining Rich Resources

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you...”

– COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

Ilive in Sudbury, Ontario, where mines are over a mile deep, full of iron ore, rich minerals, precious metals, and gemstones. Extracting them requires technique, experience, and skill. Nevertheless, millions of tonnes of rock must be processed and “mucked out” by hard work. Lives are lost in this process.

Chaplains go down into dark places to shed light and to bring out precious jewels. They use their ears, eyes, and hearts to carry hope, comfort, and understanding along fault lines of distress, disease, dis-ease, fear, conflict, doubt, trauma, and pain. They are in deep.

Colossians unearths incredible resources that are available through Christ. Whether you are coming alongside a person to offer comfort and support or find yourself in need of encouragement and strength, this passage reminds us that through prayer, God provides wisdom, strength, and power that enables us to persevere.

REFLECTION

1. Read Colossians 1:9-14 to mine for resources that are available to you.
2. Is there someone for whom you could pray in this way?

Paulette MacRae has served with the C&MA since 1984 and continues to be shaped by God through service. Paulette is an Alliance Chaplain who is part of the network of over 100 chaplains in the Association of Alliance Chaplains.

Praying in the Holy Spirit

"But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life" — JUDE 20-21

Jude isn't the only one to speak about praying in the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul also tells us to "...pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests..." (Ephesians 6:18).

One of the keys to seeing prayer become an avenue for releasing God's presence and power is to pray in the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to pray in the Holy Spirit? I had this question for many years. I have come to see that praying in the Holy Spirit is supernatural co-operation with God. It means that I actively yield to the prompting of the Spirit by constantly keeping my heart and mind in a posture of seeking and listening to His voice and faithfully speaking out what He brings to mind. To pray in the Spirit means that He communicates and downloads His heart to ours, from His Spirit to our spirit, resulting in our declaration of His words.

I often experience the promptings and leadings of the Holy Spirit in one of three ways:

- Through a sudden conviction about a direction to pray.
- Through witnessing a change of tone and clarity in my words in the flow of my prayer.
- Through the urge and prompting to begin praying in tongues, outwardly when I am alone, and usually quietly when I am in the presence of others.

When I have entered into a time of praying in the Holy Spirit, my experience has become a surprising dynamic moment when I know I have been in the manifest presence of Jesus. There is nothing else like it!

REFLECTION

1. What do you feel are the greatest hindrances in your life to praying in the Holy Spirit?
2. How often do you intentionally position your heart and mind to hear God's promptings before beginning to pray? Consider making this a new pattern in your prayer life.

Shane Gould is Lead Pastor of Burlington Alliance Church, in Ontario. He and his wife, Linda, have three children and a passion to see God's people live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Presence

“The Lord is my shepherd...he leads me...He guides me...you are with me...”

– PSALM 23

When I Google images of God, I see a very unhelpful caricature. There are a hundred versions of a muscular, slightly-older-than-middle-aged, white-haired, bearded man with kind eyes somewhere in the clouds. Unfortunately, this image has contaminated the Christian imagination.

God is not a sky-dwelling muscular man. Jesus said that “God is Spirit...” (John 4:24). God is omnipresent; wherever God is, He is wholly there. One of the points Jesus was making is that God is not more in Jerusalem than in Samaria. No; wherever we are, God’s supreme presence is there.

David made the same point in Psalm 23: whether we are by the cool waters and green pastures, or we are at death’s door, or in enemy territory, God is with us. We can have confidence in all situations because God truly is with us.

He is no more with us at a church service than throughout the week. Jesus said, “...I am with you always...” (Matthew 28:20). We live in the presence of God. “...In him we live and move and have our being...” (Acts 17:28).

The real question is not whether God is present; it is whether we are present.

Are we really present to God’s attention and grace in each moment? Do we have an increasing awareness of His nearness, or are we waiting for our next prayer meeting or church service to experience His presence?

Reflect on Psalm 23 and let it awaken you to God’s delightful and comprehensive presence that’s with us every minute of every day, wherever we go.

REFLECTION

1. Take a few minutes to reflect on your image of what God is like. Does it align with Scripture, such as the passages highlighted here? If not, ask God to refine your understanding of Him.
2. Are you present? Ask God to heighten your awareness of His constant nearness to you. Pause throughout the day to acknowledge God's presence.

Stuart McKnight is Lead Pastor of Vernon Alliance Church, in Vernon, British Columbia. He and his wife, Teresa, have six children. They have enjoyed the Okanagan Valley for twelve years. In their words, "They get to live where everyone else goes for holidays!"

**THE REAL QUESTION IS
NOT WHETHER GOD IS
PRESENT; IT IS WHETHER
WE ARE PRESENT.**

Praying for Globally Scattered People

“The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night” — PSALM 121:5-6

The Apostle Paul admonished us to pray always. What do we pray about? Typically, we pray before meals. We pray for our health issues, family matters, studies, jobs, and church-related concerns. Some pray for mission fields and select missionaries. This is commendable.

God also calls us to care for the wanderer (Isaiah 58). A great place to start is to pray for the migrants or the scattered people who have great need. Psalm 121 reminds us that God watches over and protects those who call on Him. The following is a guided prayer for migrants:*

O God, I do not fully understand the flight of humans; they are mysterious and too deep to fathom.

Today, I specifically pray for the Diasporas, the scattered people in our borderless world. Too many of them are like grains scattered in the vast field, in the world you created. Some of them are left with no choice but to leave their homeland because of the forces of nature that have washed away their properties and destroyed their homes. Some flee the terrors of war and conflict. Still others leave for the betterment of their lives and advancement of their careers. For reasons I do not know, these scattered people are now separated from their families, isolated from their communities, confused, and lonely in a foreign land.

I pray for the homeless and uprooted refugees; have mercy, Lord.

The children caught in the middle of wars and conflict; protect them, Father.

The women trafficked and sold into the sex industry; preserve them, Almighty God, and destroy the work of the enemy.

The newly landed immigrants, Lord, may they plant roots in their adopted country and be anchored in Christian community.

O God, now I commit the millions of migrants who traverse the globe. May they find peace, strength, and joy in Christ Jesus as they travel throughout our world.

*This is my prayer, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the friend of the migrants and pilgrims.
Amen.*

REFLECTION

1. Ask God to reveal to you a specific person or a Diaspora population in need of prayer.
2. Commit to regularly praying Psalm 121 on their behalf.

Sadiri Joy Tira, D.Min., D.Miss., serves as Senior Associate for Diasporas for The Lausanne Movement and as the Diaspora Missiology Specialist for the Jaffray Centre for Global Initiatives at Ambrose University.

GOD ALSO CALLS US TO CARE FOR THE WANDERER (ISAIAH 58).

*The extended version of this prayer originally appeared at the Lausanne Global Conversations, posted on January 19, 2014 (conversation.lausanne.org/en/resources/detail/13408#.Vj0Fj7erQdU). It was also included in *Diaspora Portraits: Deliberations of a Global Traveler* (ISBN 9789710093632).

Proximity or Presence?

"...be filled with the Spirit" — EPHESIANS 5:18

I stood face-to-face with a young man who was overcome with emotion. He had just responded to a call to be filled with the Holy Spirit and was trying to figure out what had just happened in his life. His voice was trembling as he spoke,

"I came forward to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and I think it just happened. As I prayed, it was like every space in my soul that was resistance to the love of Jesus, every place that was blocked to the fullness of His presence, melted away. I feel overwhelmed by the love of Jesus. Is that it?"

I smiled and embraced this young man. I whispered in his ear, "Yeah, that's it!" He had moved from proximity to presence.

One of my deep concerns for the C&MA is that we have a rich theology of the Holy Spirit but an impoverished experience of the Holy Spirit. In many ways, we have become afraid of our own theology. We can end up living in proximity to the presence of God but not enter into the presence of God.

In 1901, Andrew Murray addressed a group of missionaries in Africa and boldly declared, "The key to the missionary problem is missionaries. They believe in the presence of the Spirit of God but they lack the encounter. There never should be a missionary ministry that is not full of the presence of the Lord."

Do you lack the encounter? For many, the fear of losing control keeps them from experiencing the transforming presence of Jesus. We stay close to the flame but never experience the fire! We desperately need an encounter with Jesus.

When Paul commanded the believers in Ephesus to "keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit," he was calling them into a deep experience with the living Christ. He was not asking them to have a measure of the Holy Spirit and to know a good deal about Christ, but to be wholly filled with and possessed by the Holy Spirit, utterly lost in the life and fullness of Jesus.

It is time to move from proximity to presence?

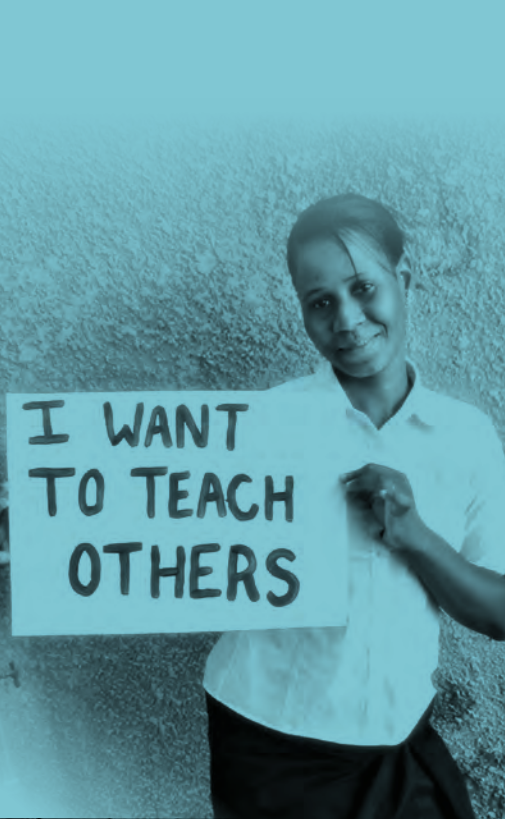
“Father, let the Holy Spirit have full dominion over me, in my home, in my temper, in every word of my tongue, and in every thought of my heart, in every feeling toward my fellow men; let the Holy Spirit have entire possession” (Andrew Murray, 1828-1917).

REFLECTION

1. Are there any issues of control that keep you from experiencing the fullness of God's Spirit?
2. Have you settled for proximity rather than presence? Are you willing to boldly ask for more?

David Hearn is the President of the C&MA in Canada.

***WE CAN END UP LIVING IN
PROXIMITY TO THE PRESENCE
OF GOD BUT NOT ENTER INTO
THE PRESENCE OF GOD.***



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